

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the two paragraphs beginning on page 5, line 18 and ending on page 5, line 30 with the following:

The alumina employed for the catalyst according to the invention may be prepared, as described in FR-A-2,527,197 (which corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 4,514,511), via treatment, in an aqueous medium which has a pH lower than 9, of an active alumina powder obtained by rapid dehydration of hydrargillite in a stream of hot gases, spray-drying and then calcining according to the technique described in EP-A-15,196.

It is also advantageously prepared, as described in FR-A-2,449,650 (which corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 4,344,928), via treatment of an active alumina powder which has a poorly crystallized and/or amorphous structure in an aqueous medium which has a pH lower than 9, an alumina of "poorly crystallized structure" being as defined therein.